

FOREST ADMINISTRATION REPORT.
OF THE
NORTHERN CIRCLE, BOMBAY PRESIDENCY,
FOR THE OFFICIAL YEAR 1891-92.

INTRODUCTION.

The year 1891-92 will be remembered in the history of Forest administration in the Northern Circle by three prominent events, *viz.* :—

- (1) the transfer of two forest ranges, comprising the Karjat taluka with its Khálápur petha in the Thána Collectorate of the Northern Circle, to the Kolába Collectorate, and concurrently to the Southern Forest Circle, under orders contained in Government Resolution No. 6561, dated 23rd September 1891, in the Revenue Department, whereby 72 square miles of forest area have been transferred from the Northern Circle to the Southern Circle ;
 - (2) the opening to the grazing of cattle of the closed portions of the Reserved Forests in the Sholápur district and in a portion of the Pooná and other Deccan districts, excepting areas of special plantations, owing to a deficient and unseasonable rainfall in the districts above the gháts having diminished the production of grass and caused a very severe scarcity of fodder grass and the impoverishment of pasturage ;
 - (3) the revenue of the year, notwithstanding the loss of two ranges with their receipts, having been still again the largest on record.
2. Forest reservations have continued to expand: 142 square miles and 515 acres have been added to Reserved Forests, while, on the other hand, 76 square miles and 204 acres, including 64 square miles contained within the Karjat taluka and Khálápur petha, have been deducted from Reserved Forests ; and while no additions have been made to Protected Forests, large removals have been made from them, chiefly, however, for transformation into Reserved Forest.
 3. The settlement of 29½ square miles of old forest which had been notified under Section 34 of the Forest Act during 1879, and of 287 square miles and 444 acres provisionally notified under Section 4 recently, was effected during the year ; and 548 square miles of provisionally notified forest lands were still undergoing settlement under the procedure of Chapter II of the Forest Act at the end of the year.
 4. The Privilege Codes of the different Divisions have continued in the *status quo ante*, no new concessions having been granted during the twelve months.
 5. 1,453 linear miles of forest boundaries were defined upon the ground by the erection of 29,671 special forest boundary marks at a cost of Rs. 11,805.
 6. The Forest Survey and Working Plans Branches respectively maintained the progressive tenor of their courses during the year, making satisfactory shows of work.
 7. The sanction of Her Majesty's Secretary of State for India in Council was recorded to the reorganization of the superior staff of the Forest Department, with its broad division into two branches, Imperial Forest Service and Provincial ; and the new arrangements were brought into application from the 1st April 1892. The subordinate staff, Protective and Office Establishments, remained as they were, and have undergone no changes.
 8. There was a decrease in the number of forest prosecutions taken into the Criminal Courts ; but on the other hand, the number of cases compounded by Forest Officers under Section 67 of the Forest Act was greater in the year of this report than during the preceding year.
 9. The number of cattle of different kinds impounded during the year, for trespassing into closed forest reservations, and also for grazing without having taken permits and paid the prescribed fees in open forests, was 339,296 against 302,493 in the year preceding.
 10. Fire conservancy shows a slight improvement, the percentage burned being 20 against 21 in the year before.
 11. The year was not a satisfactory one for reproduction, natural and artificial, as the rainfall was abnormally short and also unseasonable.
 12. The receipts from grass and grazing have continued their chronicled annual augmentation since the great famine year 1877, having increased from Rs. 3,61,984 in 1890-91 to Rs. 4,35,923 in 1891-92.

13. 1,202,372 cattle were provided with pasturage in open forests on payment of fees, and 631,466 cattle have enjoyed free grazing inside the open forests.

14. Another financial success has been recorded, despite the loss of the revenue of two ranges which has gone to the credit of the Southern Circle; for the revenue of 1891-92 is the highest on record. Good forest conservancy together with the exhaustion of former sources of supply of timber and other forest produce from areas outside the State forests, and the penetration of our timber and forest produce into new markets, as well as in greater volume into old centres of trade, have sent up the revenue beyond last year's leap.

15. The following statement shows the names of the superior Forest Officers who have been conducting the administration of the forests during the year, and the stations they have occupied, with other particulars:—

NORTHERN CIRCLE.

Mr. A. T. Shuttleworth, Conservator of Forests, 1st Grade, throughout the year.

No.	Forest Division.	Name of officer.	Rank.	Designation.	From	To	Remarks
1	North Thána ...	Mr. F. Gleadow ...	Deputy Conservator of Forests, 4th Grade.	Divisional Forest Officer.	1st April 1891 ...	15th May 1891.	
		" G. P. Millett ...	Assistant Conservator of Forests, 1st Grade.	Do. ...	16th May 1891 ...	16th Nov. 1891.	
		" L. S. Osmaston ...	Assistant Conservator of Forests, 2nd Grade.	Do. ...	17th Nov. 1891 ...	18th Dec. 1891.	
		" G. P. Millett ...	Assistant Conservator of Forests, 1st Grade.	Do. ...	19th Dec. 1891 ...	31st March 1892.	
		" A. C. Robinson ...	Acting Sub-Assistant Conservator, 3rd Grade	North Sub-Divisional Officer.	1st April 1891 ...	18th Feb. 1892.	
		" J. Baptista ...	Sub. <i>pro-tem.</i> Sub-Assistant Conservator, 3rd Grade.	Do. ...	19th Feb. 1892 ...	31st March 1892.	
		" J. Baptista ...	Do. do.	South Sub-Divisional Officer.	1st April 1891 ...	18th Feb. 1892.	
		" A. C. Robinson ...	Acting Sub-Assistant Conservator, 3rd Grade.	Do. ...	19th Feb. 1892 ...	31st March 1892.	
		Mr. G. P. Millett ...	Assistant Conservator of Forests, 1st Grade.	Divisional Forest Officer.	1st April 1891 ...	16th Dec. 1891.	
		" L. S. Osmaston ...	Do. 2nd Grade.	Do. ...	17th Dec. 1891 ...	31st March 1892.	
2	South Thána ...	" J. H. Clabby ...	Sub-Assistant Conservator of Forests, 3rd Grade.	North Sub-Divisional Officer.	1st April 1891 ...	9th Nov. 1891.	
		" L. S. Osmaston ...	Assistant Conservator of Forests, 2nd Grade.	Do. ...	10th Nov. 1891 ...	18th do.	
		" G. P. Millett ...	Do. 1st Grade.	Do. ...	19th do. ...	26th do.	
		" K. B. Phadke ...	Acting Sub-Assistant Conservator of Forests, 3rd Grade.	Do. ...	27th do. ...	17th Dec. 1891.	
		" A. N. Master ...	Do. do.	Do. ...	18th Dec. 1891 ...	31st March 1892.	
		" L. S. Osmaston ...	Assistant Conservator of Forests, 2nd Grade.	South Sub-Divisional Officer.	1st April 1891 ...	18th Nov. 1891.	
		" G. P. Millett ...	Do. 1st Grade.	Do. ...	19th Nov. 1891 ...	26th do.	
		" K. B. Phadke ...	Sub-Assistant Conservator of Forests, 3rd Grade.	Do. ...	27th do. ...	2nd Jan. 1892.	
		" W. F. D. Fisher.	Assistant Conservator of Forests, 3rd Grade.	Do. ...	3rd Jan. 1892 ...	31st March 1892.	
		Mr. F. R. Desai ...	Deputy Conservator of Forests, 1st Grade.	Divisional Forest Officer.	1st April 1891 ...	Do.	
3	East Khândesh ...	Mr. R. S. Fagan ...	Do. 4th Grade.	Do. ...	Do. ...	1st July 1891.	
		" F. R. Desai ...	Do. 1st Grade.	Do. ...	2nd July 1891 ...	13th Nov. 1891.	
		" E. G. Oliver ...	Assistant Conservator of Forests, 2nd Grade.	Do. ...	14th Nov. 1891 ...	31st March 1892.	
4	West Khândesh.	" G. S. Hinge ...	Sub. <i>pro-tem.</i> Sub-Assistant Conservator of Forests, 3rd Grade.	Sub-Divl. Officer.	1st April 1891 ...	Do.	
		Mr. W. G. Betham ...	Deputy Conservator of Forests, 2nd Grade.	Divisional Forest Officer.	Do. ...	Do.	
		" W. A. Wallinger.	Sub-Assistant Conservator of Forests, 3rd Grade.	Sub-Divl. Officer.	Do. ...	7th August 1891.	
5	Nâsik ...	" K. B. Phadke ...	Acting Sub-Assistant Conservator of Forests, 3rd Grade.	Do. ...	6th August 1891.	16th Nov. 1891.	
		" W. A. Wallinger.	Sub-Assistant Conservator of Forests, 3rd Grade.	Do. ...	17th Nov. 1891 ...	31st March 1892.	
		Mr. A. D. Wilkins ...	Deputy Conservator of Forests, 4th Grade.	Divisional Forest Officer.	1st April 1891 ...	Do.	
6	Ahmednagar ...	Mr. R. C. Wroughton.	Do. 1st Grade.	Do. ...	Do. ...	15th May 1891.	
		" F. Gleadow ...	Do. 4th Grade.	Do. ...	16th May 1891 ...	17th August 1891.	
		" R. C. Wroughton.	Do. 1st Grade.	Do. ...	18th August 1891.	31st March 1892.	
		" W. R. Gaunde ...	Sub-Assistant Conservator of Forests, 2nd Grade.	Sub-Divl. Officer.	1st April 1891 ..	Do.	
7	Poona ...	Mr. C. Greathed ...	Deputy Conservator of Forests, 3rd Grade.	Divisional Forest Officer.	Do. ...	24th June 1891.	
		" G. D. Panser, C. S.	Assistant Collector ...	Do. ...	25th June 1891 ...	3rd July 1891.	
		" R. S. Fagan ...	Deputy Conservator of Forests, 4th Grade.	Do. ...	4th July 1891 ...	31st March 1892.	
		" L. D. Joshi ...	Sub-Assistant Conservator of Forests, 1st Grade.	Sub-Divl. Officer.	1st April 1891 ...	Do.	
8	Sâtara ...	Mr. S. Hornidge ...	Assistant Conservator of Forests, 1st Grade.	Divisional Forest Officer.	Do. ...	Do.	
		Mr. R. H. Madan ...	Acting Assistant Conservator of Forests, 3rd Grade.	Do. ...	Do. ...	Do.	
9	Sholâpur ...	" K. B. Phadke ...	Acting Sub-Assistant Conservator of Forests, 3rd Grade.	Sub-Divl. Officer.	1st Feb. 1892 ...	31st March 1892.	
		Mr. H. W. Keys ...	Deputy Conservator of Forests, 4th Grade.	Divisional Forest Officer.	1st April 1891 ...	11th August 1891.	
10	Surat ...	" W. A. Wallinger.	Sub-Assistant Conservator of Forests, 3rd Grade.	Do. ...	12th August 1891.	10th Nov. 1891.	
		" H. W. Keys ...	Deputy Conservator of Forests, 4th Grade.	Do. ...	11th Nov. 1891 ...	31st March 1892.	
11	Panch Mahâls ...	Mr. T. B. Fry ...	Do. 3rd Grade.	Do. ...	1st April 1891 ...	Do.	
12	Working Plans ...						